WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for eliciting a disease modifying effect on an arthritic condition in a mammal which comprises administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an anti-resorptive compound.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the arthritic condition is osteoarthritis.

3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the anti-resorptive compound is selected from a bisphosphonate, an integrin inhibitor, a cathepsin K inhibitor, a selective estrogen receptor modulator or a combination thereof.

4. The method of Claim 3 wherein the bisphosphonate is alendronate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. The method of Claim 4 wherein the alendronate is administered in a dosage of about 70 mg weekly to about 280 mg weekly.

6. The method of Claim 5 wherein the alendronate is administered in a dosage of about 140 mg weekly.

7. A method for eliciting a disease modifying effect on subchondral bone sclerosis in a mammal which comprises administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an anti-resorptive compound.

8. The method of Claim 7 wherein the anti-resorptive compound is selected from a bisphosphonate, an integrin inhibitor, a cathepsin K inhibitor, a selective estrogen receptor modulator or a combination thereof.

9. The method of Claim 8 wherein the bisphosphonate is alendronate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. The method of Claim 9 wherein the alendronate is administered in a dosage of about 70 mg weekly to about 280 mg weekly.

11. The method of Claim 10 wherein the alendronate is administered in a dosage of about 140 mg weekly.

12. A method for preventing osteophyte formation or progression in a mammal which comprises administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an anti-resorptive compound.

13. The method of Claim 12 wherein the anti-resorptive compound is selected from a bisphosphonate, an integrin inhibitor, a cathepsin K inhibitor, a selective estrogen receptor modulator or a combination thereof.

14. The method of Claim 12 wherein the bisphosphonate is alendronate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. The method of Claim 14 wherein the alendronate is administered in a dosage of about 70 mg weekly to about 280 mg weekly.

16. The method of Claim 15 wherein the alendronate is administered in a dosage of about 140 mg weekly.

17. A method for preventing joint deterioration in a mammal which comprises administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an anti-resorptive compound.

18. The method of Claim 17 wherein the anti-resorptive compound is selected from a bisphosphonate, an integrin inhibitor, a cathepsin K inhibitor, a selective estrogen receptor modulator or a combination thereof.

19. The method of Claim 18 wherein the bisphosphonate is alendronate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

20. The method of Claim 19 wherein the alendronate is administered in a dosage of about 70 mg weekly to about 280 mg weekly.

21. The method of Claim 20 wherein the alendronate is administered in a dosage of about 140 mg weekly.

22. A method for inhibiting vascular invasion into calcified cartilage in a mammal which comprises administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an anti-resorptive compound.

23. The method of Claim 22 wherein the anti-resorptive compound is selected from a bisphosphonate, an integrin inhibitor, a cathepsin K inhibitor, a selective estrogen receptor modulator or a combination thereof.

24. The method of Claim 23 wherein the bisphosphonate is alendronate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

25. The method of Claim 24 wherein the alendronate is administered in a dosage of about 70 mg weekly to about 280 mg weekly.

26. The method of Claim 25 wherein the alendronate is administered in a dosage of about 140 mg weekly.

27. A method for eliciting a disease modifying effect on an arthritic condition in a mammal by inhibiting vascular invasion into calcified cartilage which comprises administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an anti-resorptive compound.

28. The method of Claim 27 wherein the arthritic condition is osteoarthritis.

29. The method of Claim 28 wherein the anti-resorptive compound is selected from a bisphosphonate, an integrin inhibitor, a cathepsin K inhibitor, a selective estrogen receptor modulator or a combination thereof.

30. The method of Claim 29 wherein the bisphosphonate is alendronate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

31. The method of Claim30 wherein the alendronate is administered in a dosage of about 70 mg weekly to about 280 mg weekly.

32. The method of Claim 31 wherein the alendronate is administered in a dosage of about 140 mg weekly.

33. The method of Claim 1 which further comprises an agent selected from an androgen receptor modulator; an inhibitor of osteoclast proton ATPase; an inhibitor of HMG-CoA reductase; an osteoblast anabolic agent; calcitonin; Vitamin K_2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salts and mixtures thereof.